GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 1920.

1. Batum: Center of Crude Oil and Classic Story.
2. What's In Some Geographic Names.
3. Vera Cruz: Traversing a Continent in 75 Miles.
4. Quacks: Ancient and Modern.
5. Saghalien: A Long-Time Political Perplexity.

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SOME GEORGIAN BOYS ALONG THE MILITARY ROAD NEAR KASBEK MOUNTAIN, NORTHEAST OF BATUM (See Bulletin No. 1)

Some of the Georgians are picturesque brigands; the rest are agricultural people who have lost none of their pride of race as a result of their contact with the soil.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is prepared and printed by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.

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Batum: Center of Crude Oil and Classic Story

MINGLE an all-pervading odor of petroleum with the aroma of a thousand years of history; picture the physical aspects of a Texas town of the gusher region, including puffing trains lumbering through the principal street, amid a swarthy human content of Turk, Armenian, Georgian and Greek, and you get an idea of the incongruity of Batum.

Batum has grown like a mushroom within a generation because a pipe line poured precious oil through its Black Sea port. It nestles at the foothills of a stream of history that parallels the pipe line and the 550-mile course of the railway to Baku. The railway links the Black sea to the Caspian, and passes such peaks of legend as the 18,000-foot Mt. Elburz, where Prometheus was bound to a rock as the vultures consumed his flesh.

Once Furnished Nearly a Fifth of World's Oil

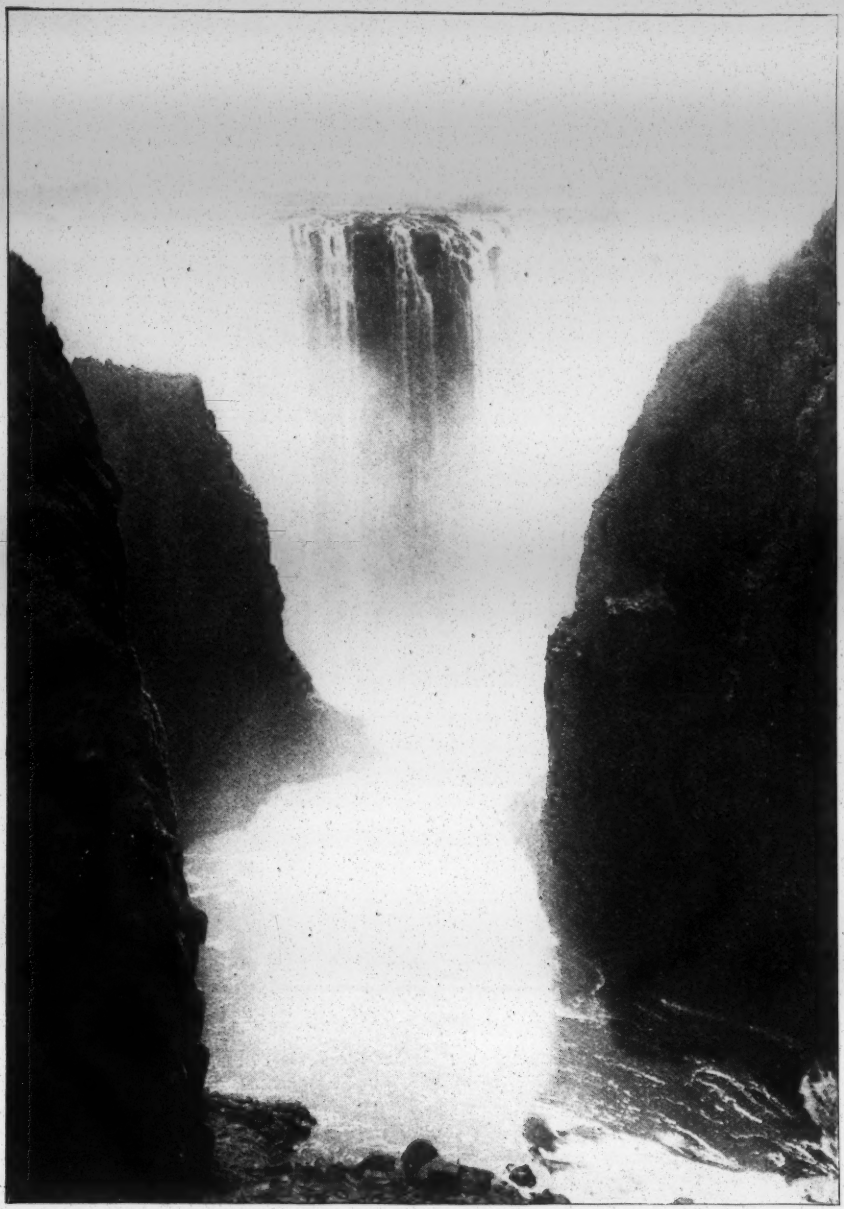
From 1907 to 1911, inclusive, nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supply came from the Caucasus region, and, in normal times, Batum was credited with exporting more petroleum than any other port in the world. Batum won this boon by the natural advantages of a harbor ranked as one of the best in the world, despite the occasional storms that render its shelter treacherous.

The city came to its industrial own when it passed from Turkish dominion to Russian hands in 1878; but political troubles, even before the war bolts of 1914, affected its commerce. Before the World War a movement had been launched to boom Batum as a health resort. In that field it had some assets, despite its get-rich-quick anomalies and unkempt appearance, such as a climate where the foliage was thick in mid-winter, and its boulevard, shaded by palms, acacias and banana trees.

How a General Strike Paralyzed Progress

In 1903 Batum had an economic experience that affected it more deeply, perhaps, than political disturbances. It never recovered from the general strike of that year, which spread over the entire South Russia, and, in Batum, brought paralysis to business, suffering to citizens, and palsy to progress.

Batum is built in a sort of amphitheater facing a beautiful bay. Wine was produced in the vineyards in its vicinity; and in the spring tons of strawberries were grown in the fields nearby. Both products were exported before the war. In those days automobiles, sewing machines, fireless cookers, and writing materials passed its custom house on their way to the Caucasus or Persia.



VICTORIA FALLS ON THE ZAMBEZI: SOUTH AFRICA

This famous waterfall was discovered in 1855 by David Livingstone, and by him named for England's Queen. Today the railway bridge which crosses the narrow canyon below the cascade is an important link in the Cape-to-Cairo line. Varying from 256 to 343 feet in height and more than a mile in width, the falls of the Zambezi plunge from a basalt escarpment to a narrow chasm, parallel to the face of the cataract, to which this narrow gorge is the only outlet.

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What's in Some Geographic Names

NAMES of such women as Joan of Arc and Edith Cavell are written indelibly upon the hearts of people for all ages. Generous and well deserved tributes have been paid lastingly to others, but so much have their names become a part of our daily lives that many who frequently pronounce them are unmindful of their significance. Cities, rivers, provinces, and islands bear the names of women of distinction.

Lady Franklin Island, near Baffin Island in the Arctic Circle, is named for the wife of Sir John Franklin, the explorer who lost his life in first finding the Northwest Passage through the great ice of the Polar Regions. There is perhaps no more beautiful story of untiring devotion and persistent effort than that of Lady Jane Franklin, who, after the failure of many attempts, fitted out a ship which though it brought back to her the definite proof of the loss of her husband's expedition, established his achievement of his object.

Pocahontas Is Liberally Honored

The picturesque stories of the little Indian Princess Pocahontas always will hold a loved place in the hearts of American childhood. Counties in Iowa and West Virginia, villages in Bond County, Illinois, and Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, and in the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, Canada, are named for her.

Queen Victoria's name is wrapped around the British Empire from the capital of British Columbia, over the heart of Africa at Victoria Nyanza and Victoria Falls, and beyond into the Queensland and Victoria in far-away Australia.

America, too, in its early days of colonization paid its tribute to the queens of the mother country and to the gracious ladies who braved the dangers of untried shores with their lords. Elizabeth, a cape in Maine, and Elizabeth City in Virginia, as well as the State itself, together with some twenty-five other places in the United States, bear the name of the clever, witty, versatile coquette, who took the dissension-torn England and whipped it into a place as a world power. Elizabeth Carteret, the charming wife of one of the aristocratic proprietors of New Jersey, shares with Queen Elizabeth some of the honors of the name. Elizabethtown, in North Carolina, and Elizabeth City, in New Jersey, are named for her.

The name of Clara Barton is perpetuated in Barton County, Kansas, and the wife of George Washington, who before her first marriage was Martha Dandridge, is honored in the town of Dandridge, Tennessee.

Martha's Vineyard—Name Misleading

There wasn't any Martha, of Martha's Vineyard, however. The first name is supposed to be a corruption of Martin, a friend of the discoverer of the island. The word Vineyard was added later on account of the wild grapes found on the island. Vinland, the name which Lief Ericson gave the North American continent, was suggested in a similar manner.

Maryland and Virginia are fairly bespattered with the names of the queens and

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VERA CRUZ, WITH SAN JUAN DE ULUA IN THE FOREGROUND (See Bulletin No. 3)

The immense cost of San Juan de Ulua—reputed to have been 40,000,000 pesos—was enough to shock even Charles V of Spain. "For what is your Majesty looking?" inquired a courtier. "I am looking for San Juan de Ulua," retorted the King, "for it certainly has cost me enough to be seen across the sea."

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Vera Cruz: Traversing a Continent in 75 Miles

WHILE fully aware of the high percentage of error most sweeping assertions contain, I nevertheless venture to claim that the country lying between the cities of Vera Cruz and Mexico City possesses more varied natural attractions than any other area of similar extent in the world."

This is the statement of Frank M. Chapman, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, concerning Vera Cruz, which figures so conspicuously in news dispatches from Mexico. Dr. Chapman continues:

"Be one student or tourist, there can be no question that one should enter Mexico from the Gulf. A journey from the coast to the capital follows a natural succession of climatic zones as well as the sequence of early historic events.

Sunrise Furnishes Happy Introduction

"The day, indeed, should begin at sunrise, some hours before disembarking at Vera Cruz, with a hope that one may have the rare good fortune to see the first rays of the sun touch the summit of Mt. Orizaba, the first, as it will be among the most lasting, of one's impressions of Mexico. The shore is still some 30 miles distant, the mountain itself about 100 miles, and one is with difficulty convinced that the gleaming pink cloud high above the horizon is part of the still invisible earth beneath it. Doubtless the Aztecs were not familiar with this view of Mt. Orizaba, but from no other place is their name for it—Citlaltapetl, the Star Mountain—so applicable.

"Nearly every little raft of gulf-weed shelters a swarm of small fish; near the Arcos keys the black and white gannets, which evidently live there, are abundant, and occasional herring gulls, sooty or bridled terns, and frigate birds are seen, while at frequent intervals flying fish, flushed by the steamer, spring from beneath the bow and scale away. One exceptionally calm morning, when the Gulf was glassy smooth, we could see them from the bow of our ship, swimming ahead a foot or two beneath the surface.

Once Dreaded as Pest-Hole: Now Healthful

"Time was when Vera Cruz was dreaded as a pest-hole, and trains at once took one from the steamer up the Sierra on the way to Mexico City, usually as far as Orizaba. Now, however, sanitary conditions and hotel accommodations have been so improved that one may stay here without danger or discomfort. At least, one should remain over night to begin the trip toward the table-land early in the morning, and thus be able to see every foot of this remarkable journey.

"In our journey from the Gulf to the summit of the Sierra, we pass through Tropical, Temperate, and Boreal zones—the Tierras Caliente, Templada, and Fria, of the native. Our actual journey, in passing from sea-level to snow-line, may be a matter of 75 miles, our change of altitude approximately three miles; but if we were to seek the Canadian Zone not on mountain-top but on the coast,

princesses of England, the very State-names themselves being taken from that of Queen Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles I, and the disputably fortunate estate of Elizabeth. Then, too, there are Annapolis, named for the wife of James I of England; and Anne Arundel and Caroline Counties, in Maryland, called after the wives of two of the Calverts; Fluvanna County and the North Anna River in Virginia named for Queen Anne; and Charlotte, Amelia and Caroline Counties and Charlottesville, the home of the University of Virginia, all called for the wives and daughters of the English kings.

Marietta, Ohio, was named for the haughty, charming Marie Antoinette. The Aleutian Islands, off the coast of Alaska, when that territory was Russian, were known as Catharine Archipelago in honor of Catharine the Great. Ekaterinburg was named for the Russian Catharine who ruled Russia through her husband, Peter the Great.

St. Helena and Helena, Montana

St. Helena, the rugged little island in the ~~Pacific~~ Atlantic which has such a soothing effect upon the restless tendencies of autocrats, bears the name of the mother of Constantine the Great, who, according to legend, discovered the cross upon which Christ died during a visit she made to the Holy Land. She was known in the early days of Christianity for her religious zeal and piety. Helena, Montana, though opinions differ as to the origin of the name, is said to have been so called because of the resemblance of its location to that of St. Helena.

The naming of Hart County, Georgia, is a generous tribute to a Dixie heroine of the Revolution, Nancy Hart.

Races do not scorn to boast that their names were taken from those of women. The Scots claim to be descended from Scota, a daughter of Pharaoh, and the Saracens from Sarah, the wife of Abraham.

Irish Harbors Recall Spanish Princess

The harbor Beará in Ireland is said to have been named by Owen More, king of Munster during the reign of Conn of the Hundred Battles, for his wife, a Spanish princess. No saint perhaps holds a dearer place in the Irish heart than St. Ite, or Ide, often called Brigid of Munster, and we find her name in several variations in the names of many churches and places throughout that country.

A charming little legend hovers about the naming of Charing Cross, the busy London station. At the spot in 1291 Edward I erected one of the thirteen crosses marking the route followed by the funeral procession of his wife, his "chere reine," from Nottinghamshire to Westminster Abbey.

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Quacks: Ancient and Modern

DO YOU regard cold cream as an ultra-modern palliative?

Or pure food and drug laws as a comparatively recent type of legislation?

Or the familiar "cure all" as an up-to-date quack device for the twentieth century credulous?

You are wrong, according to the statements contained in a communication to the National Geographic Society from Dr. John A. Foote. A part of the communication states:

"Most people at some time or another use cold-cream. It seems quite a modern luxury, indispensable alike to peer and peri, and adapted to many and varied uses. In fact, one traveler tells recently of having some of his cold-cream eaten by a fat-hungry valet in Germany. So we are inclined to regard it as a fairly modern product. And yet 'Unguentum Refrigerans,' cold-cream, has come down to us from Roman days. The first formula is attributed to Galen, who lived and wrote in the second century. What we use today is practically the same, though 'Doctor' Galen's original formula was imitated and 'improved' hundreds of times.

Sicily Had First Pure Food and Drugs Act

"Emperor Frederick II of Sicily, in 1240 or 1241, published the first pure food and drugs act. He was about 700 years ahead of Dr. Wiley, for he specified strict regulations of the standard of drug purity, and provided for drug inspectors, and fined all offenders.

"The practice of medicine was also regulated. A physician was required to have a diploma from a university before he could study medicine; then he took a three-year course in the school of medicine and one year's practice under a practicing physician. Special post-graduate work in anatomy was required if he was to do surgery.

"All this was in the so-called 'dark ages.' Even the fees of physicians and pharmacists were strictly regulated by law and were in purchasing value about the same as the charges of the present day. Physicians were not allowed to own drug stores and drug adulterators were severely dealt with.

"Mithradatium was the name of the great antidote of Roman pharmacy. It had from 40 to 50 vegetable ingredients, few of which had any real medicinal value except opium, and these drugs were blended with honey.

Eulogized His Prescription in Verse

"It remained for Nero's physician, Andromachus to put the finishing touches to this wonderful compound. Andromachus added viper's flesh to the formula and called his new compound Theriaca. He wrote some verses dedicated to Nero, describing this medicine and claiming virtues for it which in our day would subject him to prosecution under the Anti-trust Act. Evidently he believed he had created in this one compound a veritable pharmaceutical monopoly.

"Galen, one of the fathers of medicine, went even further. He recommended

it would be necessary for us to travel to Maine or Nova Scotia. In other words, a journey of some 1,500 miles would be required to reach conditions which are here distant but three altitudinal miles.

How Altitude May Magnify Distance

"It follows, then, that one can actually stand in a tropical jungle, where parrots, trogens, toucans, and other equatorial birds are calling from the liana-draped trees, and look upward to forests of pines and spruces, where crossbills, juncos, pine siskins, and evening grosbeaks are among the common permanently resident species.

"Later, we may ascend to the snows on Orizaba to discover at approximately what altitude the palms of the Tierra Caliente give way to the oaks of the Tierra Templada, to be in turn replaced by the spruces of the Tierra Fria."

WRECKS ON THE BEACH NEAR VERA CRUZ, MEXICO

And eloquent they are of a people who have spent their energies in civil wars rather than in improving the lanes of the near by sea.

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Saghalien: A Long-Time Political Perplexity

THE island of Saghalien, recent subject of diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Japan, has been a political perplexity both to Russia and Japan for many years. Soon after the Pilgrim Fathers landed on the east coast of North America, a Japanese feudal baron dispatched an agent to this far northern island of the group that swings south from Siberia, at the mouth of the Amur, to Formosa and Fukien on the China coast. Within twenty years after that the Russians had landed on Saghalien.

The Japanese subsequently made several trips of inspection, but a small handful of Russian colonists remained, and today the majority of the permanent inhabitants of Saghalien are Russian, while to the Japanese it is little more than a summer fishing resort.

In 1853 Russia sent an ambassador to Nagasaki and a band of troops to Saghalien. While the ambassador conducted negotiations, the troops built a fortress, but, after repeated attempts, the boundary question was still unsettled.

Japan Once Traded Rights in Island

By 1875 the sea-going Japanese gave up all rights in Saghalien to the Russians in return for full rights in the Kurile Islands, and this condition of affairs continued until the Treaty of Portsmouth, which gave southern Saghalien, up to the 50th parallel, to Japan.

Japanese Saghalien has little agricultural land, but has large forests of both deciduous and evergreen trees, amounting to more than 8,000,000 acres. Japanese paper mills are situated in Otomari and elsewhere and an effort is being made to develop the paper-making industry.

But it is on fishing that the majority of the Japanese inhabitants depend for a living. As soon as the summer season is over the fishermen migrate to the southern islands of Japan for the winter. Mauka, on the west coast of Saghalien is the center of the crab fisheries, and much of the crab flake consumed in the Far East comes from this little town. A post road connects Mauka with Toyohara, which is the capital of Karafuto, the name which the Japanese have given to the southern part of Saghalien.

Must Paint Windows to Protect Glass

Saghalien has less than sixty miles of railway, and white, red or blue lines are painted across the windows of the cars to prevent the people from trying to stick their heads through the glass.

The average annual temperature of Saghalien is near the freezing point, and if the Japanese are ever to colonize the island they will have to change their methods of dressing and building.

In summer the streets swarm with Japanese; the Shinto shrine on the heights overlooking the Toyohara plain is visited by thousands, and numerous fishing boats

A FAMOUS CURE-ALL OF THE DARK AGES

The medieval medicine man, upon obtaining such an Egyptian "antique," would (to translate his announcement into modern words) have advertised to his patients the receipt of another large consignment of dried mummy, imported in its original mummy case, direct from the tombs of the ancients on the banks of the Nile—a sure panacea for all the ills that flesh is heir to.

it as a cure for all poisons, bites, headaches, vertigo, deafness, epilepsy, apoplexy, dimness of sight, loss of voice, asthma, coughs, spitting of blood, tightness of breath, colic, the iliac passion (appendicitis), jaundice, hardening of the spleen, stone, fevers, dropsy, leprosy, melancholy, all pestilences, etc. Nowadays he would probably have included coupon thumb, golf shoulder, and movie eye.

"As Galen's writings dominated medical thought for more than 1,500 years, it is not surprising that this advertisement made Mithradatium, or Theriaca, a valued remedy. Every physician of note for centuries afterward claimed some improvement on the original formula."

ply back and forth from the ports massing the catch, which is valued at about $3,000,000 a year. Between Toyohara and the shrine there is a race track, and when a man wins on the races he climbs to the shrine and makes an offering in recognition of his good luck. Thousands of the most talkative crows in the world line the roadway and scold at the passersby.

Women Stockingless Even in Winter

But in winter the scene is different. Then the Japanese section of the city, with its light frame houses, with movable partitions, is almost deserted, and only an occasional Japanese woman in a padded kimono, but with bare ankles, can be seen in the snowy streets. The scene of greatest activity then shifts to the Russian part of the town, where heavy log huts and a Russian church give an air of permanence to what would otherwise be a toy village of thin-walled villas.

Karafuto has much coal and there is considerable gold, but in the past the Russian residents have largely confined their efforts to farming and the Japanese to fishing.

The northern portion of the island has an area of 14,668 square miles, and a population of about 34,000 persons, who live there throughout the year. The summer population of Karafuto is about 50,000, but in winter the population dwindles to half that number, those who remain being mostly Russian.

Saghalien has not been developed to any great extent, but what natural development has taken place has been done more by the Russian exiles whose permanent homes were there than by the Japanese, whose fishing camps and trading centers have dotted the shoreline.

Bulletin No. 5, September 27, 1920

BUZZARDS ON MARKET-HOUSE: VERA CRUZ (See Bulletin No. 3)

These birds are the scavengers of the city streets, and are protected by law on that account. With improved sanitary facilities their services are less essential than formerly.